

Claims:

1. A method for joining an initial section (3) of a film tube (2) which is wound up in a band-like manner on a reel (1) with an end section (4) of a second film tube (5) extending over subsequent processing stations, especially a packaging system, in an at least partly band-like manner, with the band-like initial and end section (3, 4) each having two mutually superimposed outer lateral surfaces (10, 11, 15, 16) which each converge in their boundary regions into two interposed, inwardly folded inner lateral surfaces (17, 18, 19, 20) which thus form an inwardly situated fold axis (S, T), **characterized in that** in the two outer boundary regions of the initial or end section (3, 4) a tab (7, 27) each is formed by placing a cut, which tab is joined in a tension-proof manner with the opposite section (3, 4), with the initial section (3) overlapping the end section (4).
2. A method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the placing of the cut occurs in the two outer boundary regions of the initial section (3) along the inner fold axis (S), and the thus formed tabs (27) are each placed from the outside onto the outer lateral surfaces (15, 16) of the end section (4) and are joined to the same in a tension-proof way.
3. A method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the placement of the cut on the end section (4) is carried out in such a way that a tab (7) each which projects in the longitudinal direction (L) of the film tube (5) is formed in the boundary regions of the end section (4), which tab is inserted between the inner lateral surfaces

(17, 18) of the initial section (3) and is joined to the initial section (3) in a tension-proof way.

4. A method according to claim 3, **characterized in that** the placement of the cut in the end section (4) occurs in such a way that slots (8) are formed in the boundary regions of the end section (4) which each extend in the longitudinal direction (L) of the film tube (5) into which the respective inner side surfaces (17, 18) of the initial section (3) are inserted along their fold axis (S).
5. A method according to claim 3 or 4, **characterized in that** the width of the tabs (7) corresponds substantially to the width of the respective inner side surfaces (17, 18) of the initial section (3).
6. A method according to one of the claims 1 to 5, **characterized in that** the tension-proof connection of the initial and end sections (3, 4) of the film tubes (2, 5) is formed by welding.
7. A method according to claim 6, **characterized in that** the welding occurs by means of ultrasonic sound.
8. A method according to one of the claims 1 to 7, **characterized in that** the initial section (3) is widened by means of negative pressure or electrostatic methods before the initial and end section (3, 4) are placed above one another.
9. A method according to one of the claims 6 to 8, **characterized in that** for welding the initial and end sections (3, 4) of the film tubes (2, 5) a welding anvil

(14) each is inserted laterally between the inner side surfaces (17, 18, 19, 20) on which a tab (7, 27) each and a boundary region each of the initial and end section (3, 4) are placed and welded together.

10. A packaging system with a reel (1) on which a film tube (2, 5) is wound up, a positioning and tensioning station (6) which unwinds the film tube (2, 5) from the reel (1) and supplies the same to subsequent sections of the system, a packaging unit (22) for processing a film tube section and a conveying device (21) for removing packaged goods, **characterized in that** at least one cutting apparatus (12, 28) for cutting the film tube (2, 5) and a welding station (13) for processing the film tube (2, 5) is arranged between the positioning and tensioning station (6) and the packaging unit (22).

11. A packaging system according to claim 10, **characterized in that** the cutting apparatus (12, 28) concerns a cutting element (28) arranged on either side of the film tube (2, 5), which cutting element is horizontally movable from a first position in which it is spaced from the film tube (2, 5) to a second position in which it slits open the film tube (2, 5) laterally in the longitudinal direction of the film tube (2, 5).

12. A packaging system according to claim 10 or 11, **characterized in that** the welding station (13) concerns an ultrasonic welding station.

13. A packaging system according to one of the claims 10 to 12, **characterized in that** pivoting suction means (30) are arranged between the positioning and tensioning station (6) and the packaging unit (22).